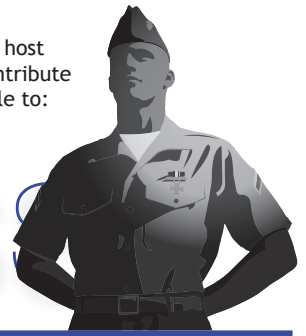


OPERATION SOS PACKING PARTY: Operation SOS - Support Our Service members - will host packing party from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **NOV. 20** at Wicker Park Pavilion. Anyone wishing to contribute cash to help pay for shipping cheer boxes to service members overseas should make a check payable to: Operation SOS, P.O. Box 9308, Highland, IN 46322. **WANT TO VOLUNTEER?** Call (219) 923-5799.



GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • NOVEMBER 2016

LINCOLN COMMUNITY CENTER

SELF-SUSTAINING FACILITY BUCKS NATIONAL TREND

Since opening Lincoln Community Center in 2012, the facility has paid its own way – from lights and heat to staff and programming.

While not unexpected, Superintendent Alex Brown is pleased with the progress. “Even the old Lincoln Center had been close to breaking even. We were hoping with the addition of the fitness and banquet centers, the facility would do even better – and it has.”

That break even has come despite a host of new competitors all vying for the local fitness dollar. “The competition was unexpected when we planned and built Lincoln Center,” he said. “Still we’re doing better than most municipally run community centers.

Across the country, most community centers are projected to cover 60 percent to 70 percent of cost through fees.

Brown was invited to speak to the National Recreation and Park Association in St. Louis in October to discuss how Lincoln Community Center bucks the trend and provide assistance for other town park departments who want to copy Highland’s success.

“Lincoln Community Center is a hive of activity,” Town Council President Bernie Zemen said. “It is a testament to Alex and his staff that the community center is so successful. Thanks to their work, the demand for community rooms, the banquet hall, fieldhouse and fitness center continues to grow.”



BY THE NUMBERS

To see just how remarkable the numbers are for Lincoln Community Center, look at the revenues for the last three years compared to the expenses.

[2013]
\$839,213 revenues
\$738,816 expenses
\$100,397 profit
114% cost recovery

[2014]
\$793,410 revenues
\$766,929 expenses
\$26,481 profit
103% cost recovery

[2015]
\$806,536 revenues
\$777,950 expenses
\$28,821 profit
104% cost recovery

LINCOLN CENTER

This state-of-the-art facility features a fitness center, fieldhouse, rental facilities, daycare, the Highland Historical Museum and numerous classrooms.

INFO: (219) 838-0114
or highlandparks.org

STATE AWARDS \$50,000 GRANT TO TOWN THEATRE PROJECT

The state awarded Highland \$50,000 for restoration of the Town Theatre marquis and facade.

Highland is one of two Indiana communities to receive matching grant funds from the lieutenant governor’s Office of Community and Rural Affairs and Office of Tourism Development.

“We always hope our grant applications will be successful,” Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. “We have been fortunate to have

received several grants contributing measurably to enhancing the quality of life of our town.”

“The intent of this fund is to reward creativity and resourcefulness,” State Tourism Director Mark Newman said. “The impact to quality of life and ultimately tourism will be great.”

Petro said in-kind assistance is also coming from the South Shore CVA to support marketing and branding strategies.

WHAT’S NEXT?

The Redevelopment Commission will be seeking bids this month for major construction on the Town Theatre.

Bids are due in December, after which the council will decide if it is moving forward with the project.

INFO: If you would like to volunteer, call Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email cpetro@highland.in.gov.

NO OPEN BURNING!

Burning leaves or any other refuse is banned within the municipal boundaries of town.

The Town Council made the regulation to prevent leaf fires from unintentionally spreading to nearby homes, sheds and garages. Lawn refuse also tends to generate a great deal of smoke, which can create or exacerbate breathing problems for neighbors.

Commercial – or homemade – firepits should be used for aged firewood or charcoal only.

INFO: Contact Building Commissioner Ken Mika, who is also a volunteer firefighter at the Highland Municipal Building, (219) 838-1080.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about the latest trends in crime at this month's crime watch meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **NOVEMBER 9**

WHERE: HPD community room

INFO: Call Officer Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN - president
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

DAN VASSAR - vice president
dvassar@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-1945



WARD 4

STEVEN WAGNER
swagner@highland.in.gov
(219) 718-3199



WARD 5

KONNIE KUIPER
kkuiper@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-7820

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

The Gazebo Express is produced by:

The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by Lithographic Communications
9701 Indiana Parkway, Munster, IN 46321

HIGHLAND READIES PLOWS FOR WINTER, URGES RESIDENTS TO KEEP ROADS CLEAR

No matter how frightful the winter turns out to be, Highland Public Works is ready.

Four new dump trucks outfitted with plows are due to be delivered this month. Assistant Public Works Director Bob Johnsen said the new equipment is replacing three 1998 trucks and one the town purchased in 2001.

Along with new and fine-tuned equipment, the town's winter arsenal includes 600 tons of road salt left over from last season and brining equipment to prepare for striping roads when icy conditions are on the way.

All that's left is for residents to do their part.

"We need everyone in town to have common sense when it comes to helping us keep the streets cleared," Public Works Director John Bach said.

"The new ordinance makes it clear that cars have to be off the roads when one inch of snow falls," Bach said. "We're not looking to tow cars, but we can if it becomes necessary. Residents expect the roads to be cleared curb-to-curb and the only way we can do that is when vehicles aren't parked there." 🐦

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

The winter season can be a challenge. However, there are a few things you can do to keep safe and help us help you.

- ❖ Plan ahead. Stock up on household supplies before the snow falls.
- ❖ Whenever possible, stay off the roads when it is snowing. If you must go out, allow more time, keep a safe distance when driving behind snow plows and stay out of snowplow drivers blind spots.
- ❖ Do not pass snow plows.
- ❖ Park in your driveway, in garages, or in a public parking lot – whenever possible.
- ❖ Keep your sidewalk clear but do not shovel or blow snow into the street.
- ❖ Help elderly or disabled neighbors.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

The Department of Public Works takes pride in its snow removal and strives to complete its task without delay or detrimental impact to residents. We understand sometimes we may not meet your expectations or miss something.

DAYTIME: Call Public Works at (219) 972-5083.

AFTER-HOURS: Call the Highland Police Department at (219) 838-3184.

ARTISTS TRANSFORMING DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND

Following a poll of residents, a sculpture created by industrial artist Randy Simko has been selected as the town's next public art piece.

Simko, who was chosen to create the sculpture that is part of the Ashley Ritz memorial at the corner of 5th and 45th avenue, will receive a stipend of \$500 from the "Love of the Region" grant from the Northwest Indiana Forum.

The artwork is part of the town's new Sculpture and Art Walk – a Highland Main Street initiative throughout downtown.

Simko, who's been creating industrial art since he was 10, uses welding to achieve angles, illusions and perspectives that grab the viewers attention and challenge their imagination.

The Dyer resident, who assembles huge cranes for a living, has had his art displayed at Steeple Gallery, Kennedy Metal Products and Lowell High School. 🐦



MEET OUR WINNING SCULPTOR

Randy Simko, who taught himself how to put scrap metal together when he was a boy in his father's weld shop, created the winning sculpture (left).

Working with pipe, tubing, fittings, steel and found objects, Simko likes to leave the welds unfinished, keeping his work industrial.

"Almost everything I build is done without a preconceived idea or drawing," the sculptor says.



HIGHLAND'S ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DAY

PUMPKIN PLOD

The more than 1,000 competitors who line up Thanksgiving morning will be racing for more than the coveted prize of pumpkin pies.

Most of them won't be racing alone.

The families that have made the Pumpkin Plod an annual tradition along with friends and neighbors who brave chilly temperatures to parade through the town streets have made the race as much about camaraderie as it is about physical fitness.

Misty Sturges will be there — along with 20 pacers from MWM Fitness — all decked out in matching orange and white shirts. The group will be competing in its first 10k run.

While picking out a fall run, Sturges said the Pumpkin Plod was her first, and only, choice.

"I have run in the Pumpkin Plod for years. It's a great race," she said. "It's well run and, being the first Thanksgiving Day race in the region, I love the tradition. Our runners warm-up and run as a group. It's nice for them to experience this race together." 🐾



ABOUT THE RACE

Join your friends and neighbors for this holiday tradition.

The 41st Annual race - a certified 10k course through the streets of Highland - will be chip timed by T&H Timing.

As is tradition, pumpkin pies will be awarded to top three runners in each category.

Walkers are encouraged to join in an unofficial 5k non-competitive fun walk.

WHEN: 9 a.m. **NOV. 24**

WHERE: Race begins at Kennedy Avenue and Jewett Street and finishes at Lincoln Community Center.

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit www.highlandparks.org.

RUNNER REGISTRATION

- **ADVANCE:** Register by **NOV. 21:** \$20 with shirt, \$15 without shirt
- **RACE DAY:** \$25 with shirt, \$20 without shirt

WALKER REGISTRATION

- **ADVANCE:** Register by **NOV. 21:** \$15 with shirt, \$5 without shirt
- **RACE DAY:** \$20 with shirt, \$10 without shirt

HIGHLAND LIONS BENEFIT

Grab a bite at the Highland Culver's and they'll donate 10 percent to the Highland Lions Club. Just mention Highland Lions or present a benefit flyer, which is available at highland.in.gov, Town Hall and Lincoln Center.

WHEN: 3 to 8 p.m. **NOVEMBER 10**

WHERE: Culver's, Ridge Road and Cline.

INFO: Call Tim Tintor at (219) 838-8756.

KIWANIS CHICKEN DINNER

Join the Highland Kiwanis for a chicken dinner honoring service to country and community. Veterans and organizations will be honored at 6:30 p.m. Eat at the park or take home. Tickets are \$10 and include half a roasted chicken, Nelson's tasty Pit-Tatoes and slaw, may be purchased at Lincoln Community Center or from any Kiwanis member.

WHEN: 5 to 6:30 p.m. **NOVEMBER 11**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center.

INFO: Call Jeannine at (219) 923-2360.

HIGHLAND ELKS BAKE SALE

Join the Highland Elks for a benefit bake sale featuring artisanal breads, cookies, pies, donuts and other Amish delights from Rise'n Roll Bakery and Deli.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **NOVEMBER 19**

WHERE: Elks Lodge #981, 3120 45th Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 922-8253

LEAF COLLECTION ONLY

It's that time of year when Public Works switches from branch pickup to leaf collection. Please refrain from trimming your trees unless necessary. There will be no branch collection in December, January or February. Residents can bring yard waste to the Public Works Facility located at 8001 Kennedy Avenue and dump them at no charge.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

SHOP WITH A FIREFIGHTER

The Highland Fireman's Association is seeking financial support for this year's "Shop with a Firefighter Program," in which firefighters take children in need on a shopping spree.

Please make checks payable to the Highland Fireman's Association and drop off or mail to the Highland Central Fire Station, 2901 Highway Avenue, Highland, IN 46322.

QUESTIONS? Email Firefighter Doug Turich at doug.turich@gmail.com.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Join our veterans and the Daughters of the American Revolution as they salute those who have served our country.

WHEN: 11 a.m. Tuesday, **NOV. 11**

WHERE: Highway of Flags

INFO: Call Sue Yamtich at (219) 614-3499.

APPLE PIE CLASS

Cathy from Cookielicious Bakery will teach bakers ages 14 and older how to create a homemade apple pie. All supplies are included.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, **NOV. 15**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$25 residents / \$27 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you enjoy shopping for comic books, sports cards, autographs and other rare items? Roger Parker from P & P Collectibles will promote the card show in conjunction with the Community Garage Sale. Register to sell your items now!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **NOV. 19**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$32.10 for 10' X 10' space and \$53.50 for approximate 23' X 6' wall space.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

Celebrate the season with joyful tunes at the Highland Community Band's fall performance. There is no cost to attend.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Tuesday, **NOV. 22**

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High

INTERESTED IN JOINING? Meet us during our weekly rehearsals at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the band room at Highland Middle School.

INFO: For more information, please email Director Greg Jasek at maestroflute@att.net.

CRAFT SHOW & VENDOR FAIR

Get a start on your holiday shopping at the two-day winter craft show. Choose from candles, jewelry, handbags, home decor, handmade items, gourmet dips and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **NOV. 26**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$42.80 per 10' x 10' interior space or \$69.55 per 23' X 6' wall space.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE

Start your Christmas shopping early at St. James the Less Christmas craft fair and bake sale featuring homemade goodies including pierogies, cookies, nut rolls, strudels and more! No advance orders. Vendors will have something for everyone from jewelry to holiday decor and crafts. Light lunch available in Santa's Snack Bar.

WHEN: : 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **DEC. 3**

WHERE: St. James the Less, 9640 Kennedy Ave.

INFO: Call Janis at (219) 724-3004.

Santa's March

Parade with Santa through downtown Highland ending at the Main Square Park Gazebo. Hot chocolate will be served. Parade applications are at Town Hall and Lincoln Center.

WHEN: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26

WHERE: Downtown to Main Square Park

Tree-lighting Ceremony

Join us for the lighting of Main Square Park for the holiday season. Santa will have treat bags for good boys and girls. Food and beverage concessions will be available.

WHEN: 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26

WHERE: Main Square Park

Christmas Carol Sing-along

Come to the Gazebo and celebrate the holidays with the Highland Main Street sing-along featuring some of the season's top tunes from Jingle Bells to Here Comes Santa Claus! All are invited to participate, including church members, school children and clubs. Jodi Pesich, vocal instructor and manager at HGS Music, will lead us in song.

WHEN: 5:15 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26

WHERE: Main Square Park

Phone calls from Santa

Santa will call your child if you register at Lincoln Center by November 30. Santa will talk to good little girls and boys about their Christmas wishes. Highland residents only.

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 1 and 2 (you provide preference)

Home Decorating Contest

Decorate your home for the holidays and you could be eligible for prizes.

Enter our contest and let the public be the judge of the best decorated houses.

Entry forms are available at Lincoln Center and must be submitted by December 4.

Highland residences only. Each winner will receive a gift certificate – \$100 for First Place, \$75 for Second Place, \$50 for Third Place and \$25 for Honorable Mention.

CAST YOUR VOTES ONLINE:

December 7-14 at highlandparks.org

WINNERS ANNOUNCED:

December 15

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

